

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating
2 in a medical study, comprising:

3 a microprocessor-based controller; and

4 a computer readable medium, including instructions executable by the
5 microprocessor-base controller to:

6 receive patient medical information from a physician relating to the
7 medical study;

8 automatically validate the patient medical information;

9 upon validating the patient medical information, store a reimbursement
10 record in a database, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement
11 amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and

12 automatically process at least one reimbursement reimbursement to
13 each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1 2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the patient medical
2 information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective
3 patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 3. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the computer readable medium further
3 includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

4 group at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records into a single
5 reimbursement file; and

6 provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 4. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records
3 listed therein.

1 5. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file is
2 electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

1 6. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the approval authority can
2 approve the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1 7. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 process reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the
4 approval authority.

1 8. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted
4 to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the
5 approval authority.

1 9. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the computer
3 readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based
4 controller to:
5 accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the one physician into a
6 single reimbursement record for the physician; and
7 process a single reimbursement reimbursement for the single reimbursement
8 record.

1 10. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 accumulate a plurality of reimbursement records in the database for one or
4 more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and
5 process one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
6 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1 11. A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating
2 in a medical study, comprising:
3 means for receiving patient medical information from a physician relating to
4 the medical study;

5 means for automatically validating the patient medical information;
6 means for storing a reimbursement record in a database upon validating the
7 patient medical information, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement
8 amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
9 means for automatically processing at least one reimbursement reimbursement
10 to each physician having reimbursement records in the database.

1 12. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the patient medical
2 information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective
3 patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 13. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the system further comprises:
3 means for grouping at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records
4 into a single reimbursement file; and
5 means for providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records
3 listed therein.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein system further comprises:
2 means for forwarding the reimbursement file to the approval authority
3 electronically.

1 16. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further
2 comprises:
3 means for allowing the approval authority to approve the reimbursement
4 records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1 17. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further
2 comprises:
3 means for processing reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon
4 approval by the approval authority.

1 18. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further
2 comprises:
3 means for electronically transmitting the reimbursement file to an accounting
4 system adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon
5 approval by the approval authority.

1 19. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the system
3 further comprises:
4 means for accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the one
5 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and
6 means for processing a single reimbursement reimbursement for the single
7 reimbursement record.

1 20. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the system further
2 comprises:
3 means for accumulating a plurality of reimbursement records in the database
4 for one or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and
5 means for processing one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of
6 the one or more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1 21. A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating
2 in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require physicians to
3 perform procedures on one or more patients, the system comprising:
4 a microprocessor-based controller;
5 a computer readable medium, wherein the computer readable medium includes
6 instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
7 receive medical procedure information from one or more physicians
8 for each procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more
9 patients in the medical study;
10 automatically validate the medical procedure information;

11 upon validating the medical procedure information, store a
12 reimbursement record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record
13 indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
14 automatically process at least one reimbursement reimbursement to
15 each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1 22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the medical procedure
2 information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device
3 information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure
4 information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 23. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 group at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a single
4 reimbursement file; and
5 provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

1 25. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file is
2 electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

1 26. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the approval authority can
2 approve the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1 27. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 process reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon
4 approval by the approval authority.

1 28. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted
4 to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon approval
5 by the approval authority.

1 29. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians,
3 and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the
4 microprocessor-based controller to:

5 accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one
6 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and

7 process a single reimbursement reimbursement for the plurality for the single
8 reimbursement record.

1 30. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

3 accumulate one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one or
4 more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

5 process one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
6 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1 31. A method for processing reimbursements to physicians for
2 participating in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require
3 physicians to perform procedures on one or more patients, the method comprising:

4 receiving medical procedure information from one or more physicians for each
5 procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more patients in the
6 medical study;

7 automatically validating the medical procedure information;

8 upon validating the medical procedure information, storing a reimbursement
9 record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record indicating at least a
10 reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and

11 automatically processing at least one reimbursement reimbursement to each
12 physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1 32. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the medical procedure
2 information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device
3 information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure
4 information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 33. The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising:
2 grouping at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a
3 single reimbursement file; and
4 providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 34. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

1 35. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising forwarding the
2 reimbursement file to the approval authority electronically.

1 36. The method as recited in claim 33; further comprising the approval
2 authority approving the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements
3 electronically.

1 37. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:
2 processing reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon
3 approval by the approval authority.

1 38. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:
2 electronically transmitting the reimbursement file to an accounting system
3 adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon
4 approval by the approval authority.

1 39. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians,
3 and wherein the method further comprises:
4 accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one
5 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and
6 processing a single reimbursement reimbursement for the plurality for the
7 single reimbursement record.

1 40. The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising:
2 accumulating one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one
3 or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

- 4 processing one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
- 5 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.